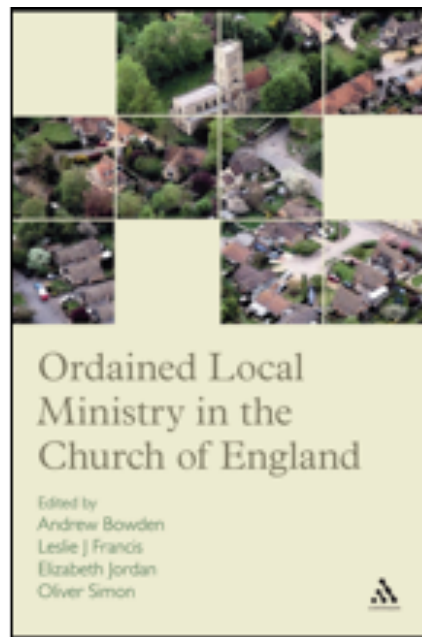


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What is the impact of Ordained Local Ministry?

Ordained Local Ministry is both an innovative and controversial development in the Church of England. Roughly half the dioceses have gone for it and the other half have not.

This pioneering and well-informed book plays out the case for and reservations against Ordained Local Ministry.

Professor Leslie J Francis, one of the four authors, has examined the research evidence and drawn two clear conclusions.

First. Comparing the performance of the two groups of dioceses (those with Ordained Local Ministers and those without) over a period of 10 years, found no differences. Ordained Local

Ministry does not appear to slow down the rate of decline experienced across the two groups of dioceses. What it does do is to repress recruitment to the ministry of Reader.

Second. Comparing the personality profile of clergy serving in Ordained Local Ministry with professional mobile clergy reveals important and fascinating differences. This supports the theory that Ordained Local Ministry recruits a different kind of candidate. The differences, however, provide challenges to the Church as well as opportunities. In essence, Ordained Local Ministers may be more resistant to change and development within the congregations that they serve.

Launch details

The book will be launched on 12 June 2012, 12.00 – 2.00pm at the Church House Bookshop, 31 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BN.

Book details

Bowden, A., Francis, L.J., Jordan, E., and Simon, O. (eds) (2012). *Ordained Local Ministry in the Church of England*. London: Continuum.